

A large, stylized letter 'M' in white, set against a dark grey circular background. The 'M' is composed of thick, blocky strokes. The top of the 'M' is partially obscured by a large white circle that overlaps the top edge of the page.

Monitoring increase in life expectancy is no longer enough in low mortality and low fertility countries as, in a context of lengthening of life and strong population ageing, individuals and policy makers are now more concerned about the quality of the years lived. This led the European Commission to select **Healthy Life Years (HLY)** as one of the EU Structural Indicators in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy (2001-2010). HLY, as other health expectancy indicators developed during the past decades, aims to assess whether the additional years of life expectancy are lived in good or bad health.

The **Joint Action European Health and Life Expectancy Information System (JA EHLEIS)** or more simply the **“Joint Action on Healthy Life Years”** is a new European effort, co-funded by DG SANCO and 10 Member States, to monitor European initiatives promoting healthy active longevity throughout Europe and to conduct **in-depth research on “Healthy life years”**.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page. On the left, there are several 3D rectangular bars of varying heights and colors (orange, grey, white) that look like they are part of a bar chart. On the right, there is a grid of small circles in orange and grey, arranged in a pattern that recedes into the distance.

Participating countries

The JA EHLEIS brings together **almost all Member States** along with the **European Commission** and with the invited participation of the **United States** (USA), **Japan**, as well as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is co-funded by 10 Member States, the European Commission (Agreement number DG SANCO, 20102301) and two French institutions: the Ministry of Health and the National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy (CNSA). At the operational level it gathers the following partners:

BELGIUM (Scientific Institute of Public Health), **CZECH REPUBLIC** (Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic), **DENMARK** (University of Copenhagen, University of Southern Denmark, National Institute of Public Health, Danish National Board of Health and Economic Council of the Labour Movement), **FRANCE** (INSERM, INED, CRLC and University of Montpellier), **GERMANY** (Robert Koch Institute and Rostock Center for Demographic Change), **GREECE** (Hellenic Statistical Authority), **ITALY** (University la Sapienza), **THE NETHERLANDS** (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment - RIVM, Statistical Office - CBS and Erasmus Medical Center), **SWEDEN** (National Board of Health and Welfare), **UNITED-KINGDOM** (Office for National Statistics and Newcastle University).

EUROPEAN HEALTH & LIFE EXPECTANCY JA:EHLEIS INFORMATION SYSTEM

CONTACT

Jean-Marie ROBINE

PROJECT LEADER, INSERM U988 ET U710,
PARIS ET MONTPELLIER

jean-marie.robine@inserm.fr

Leila OUMEDDOUR

SENIOR RESEARCH MANAGER, INED, PARIS

leila.oumeddour@ined.fr

www.eurohex.eu



Avec le soutien de la
Caisse nationale de
solidarité pour l'autonomie



EUROPEAN HEALTH & LIFE EXPECTANCY

JA:EHLEIS

INFORMATION SYSTEM

The
Joint Action
on **Healthy**
Life Years



Two previous projects have been conducted to promote the Structural Indicator HLY, based on the development of an Information System and research work to monitor health trends and gaps in Europe.

- During the first phase (2004-7) the **EHEMU** project developed several **summary measures of population health (SMPH)** indicating the quality of the remaining years that a person is expected to live (i.e. free of chronic disease, free of disability and in good perceived health).
- In the second phase (2007-2010) the **EHLEIS** project began to systematically monitor health trends and gaps among the European countries and to identify their determinants through the survey instruments developed by EHEMU and included in the pan-European survey **SILC** (European Statistics on Incomes and Living Conditions) and **SHARE** (Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe).

In the framework of the new **Europe 2020 Strategy** (2011-2020), the **JA EHLEIS** (2011-2014) aims to increase: **(i)** the utility of the SMPH through consolidation and further development of the EHLEIS Information System, **(ii)** the comparability with SMPH for the United States and Japan and **(iii)** the use by Member States in national policy-making. In particular the JA EHLEIS will contribute to the **first partnership of Innovation Union**, which focuses on **active and healthy ageing** and with the target of increasing by 2 years the average number of **healthy life years** by 2020. The JA EHLEIS will firstly enable this partnership to be properly monitored by the previously developed SMPH. Secondly the JA EHLEIS will contribute towards identifying the main determinants of healthy life in Europe, thus offering new avenues for policies targeting increases in HLY.



The first results of the JA EHLEIS will be ready for **2012**, designated as the **European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations**.



Aims of the JA EHLEIS

Joint Actions enable the Member States and the European Commission to continue their action in specific common areas.

The aims of the JA EHLEIS are to:

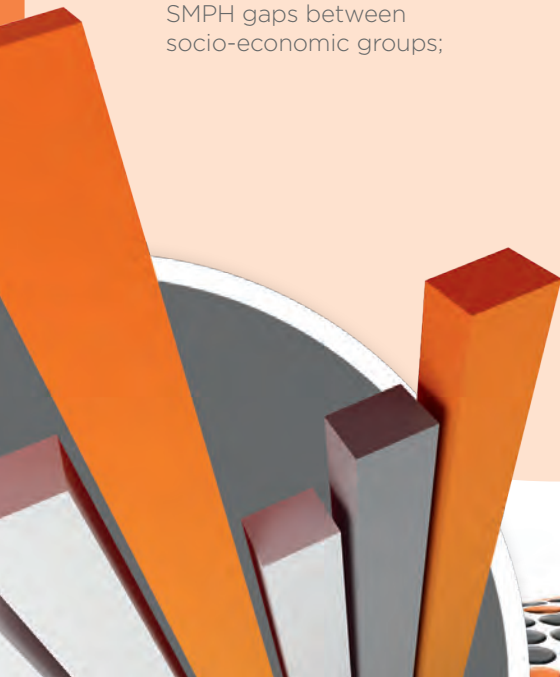
- **CONSOLIDATE THE EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (EHLEIS)** by calculation and dissemination (online information system, annual country reports) of SMPH (including the HLY) and analysis of trends and gaps in life and health expectancies at the EU level (macro-level determinants);
- **CONTINUE DEVELOPING IN-DEPTH RESEARCH** by analysis of micro-level health determinants using the new European Health Interview Survey and analysis of SMPH gaps between socio-economic groups;
- **UNDERTAKE RESEARCH** in order to develop an alternative SMPH in the future, in collaboration with the US, Japan and OECD;
- **INTEGRATE THE EUROPEAN TASK FORCE ON HEALTH EXPECTANCIES** into an annual meeting to further engage Member States and promote SMPH use in policy-making.



T arget audience

The JA EHLEIS aims to disseminate its findings as widely as possible and specifically to:

Member States in general, health and non-health policy makers at national, European and OECD level, health professionals and researchers, media and the general public.





Expected outcomes

The main outcomes will be:

- **AN INFORMATION SYSTEM**
allowing online calculation of a variety of health indicators (prevalence, life and health expectancies) for European comparisons and Member States to undertake regional comparisons with their own data;
- **ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HEALTH EXPECTANCY**
translated into national languages;
- **PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS**
to replace the Task Force on Health Expectancies;
- **IMPROVED STATISTICAL TOOLS** for attributing disability and poor health to specific diseases and/or lifestyle factors and for decomposing gaps between countries, socio-demographic groups and over time into the relative contributions of mortality and morbidity/disability;
- **TECHNICAL REPORTS AND SCIENTIFIC PAPERS**
on key methodological advances and substantive results on inequalities in healthy active ageing between Member States and their potential drivers;
- **A BLUEPRINT**
for an internationally harmonized SMPH.



The JA EHLEIS will contribute directly to the objectives of the **Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health 2008-2013** and to the **first partnership of Innovation Union**, which focuses on active and healthy ageing.

